

MAKE SUCI CANDIDATES VICTORIOUS IN ANDHRA & ASSAM

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's Appeal

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has appealed to the voters of Andhra Pradesh and Assam to make SUCI candidates victorious in the coming elections :

People of Andhra Pradesh and Assam, like rest of the country, must realise the basic fact that the appalling poverty, sub-human standard of life of more than seventy-five percent of the people, ever growing problem of unemployment, chaotic condition in the field of education, the virus of parochialism, regionalism, castism, communalism etc., corroding the bond of unity of the working people, unabated eviction of share croppers from land, erosion of values, norms and ethics and consequent degeneration of moral standard of the society at large are nothing but the inevitable outcome of the capitalist socio-economic-political structure of our country.

We cannot also ignore, leaving aside this fundamental point, the unpardonable callousness on the part of the Governments—both at the Centre and in the States of Andhra and Assam that added to the destitution of the toiling people. The Andhra people cannot also forget the height of criminal negligence of the State Government in the face of the havoc caused by the last cyclone and also the tyrannical role of Assam Congress Government to the people during its entire tenure.

During the last thirty years or more, Congress has been acting as the main enemy of the people in as much as it has been defending the exploitative capitalist state machine. The overthrow of the Congress from the Centre and in different states during the last Parliamentary and Assembly elections and, its recent split into two do not, however, alter this basic capitalist class character of the party. The Congress party, both of its fractions, must be given a crushing defeat at the polls.

Fearing that the anti-Congress feeling of the common people which was at its height particularly during the darkest days of Emergency clamped by Smt. Indira Gandhi might take an anti-capitalist orientation, the ruling capitalist class, took advantage of the low level of political consciousness of the people and absence of a genuinely left and democratic front in the country, to channelise this anti-Congress feeling to another bourgeois alternative, the Janata Party, which came to power in the last election. This in fact, initiated the process of 'two-party Parliamentary system' which aims at arresting the

(Contd. to Page 8)

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STEEL WORKERS' CONFERENCE HELD AT ROURKELA AMIDST GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND JUBILATION

Under the auspices of the Rourkela Workers' Union affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) the two day conference of the Steel Workers was held amidst great enthusiasm and jubilation between 21st and

22nd January 1978 at Rourkela. Apart from 635 delegates from the Rourkela Steel Plant, 15 fraternal delegates from the Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants and 50 from other different factories

in and around Rourkela attended the conference.

The open session held at Ambagan, Rourkela on 21st January was attended by well over eight thousand people from different sections of the toiling people. A demonstrative cycle procession followed by an equally decorated long procession of workers, students, youths and women which attracted the attention of the public, traversed all the important thoroughfares of the steel town and reached the meeting place. The open session was presided over by Comrade Tapas Dutta, secretary Orissa State Committee, SUCI and

(Contd. to Page 4)

UNPRECEDENTED

Calcutta 13th February: For the ensuing general election in Assam the Election Commission had, after due scrutiny, allotted 'Bicycle' as the election symbol to our seven candidates out of eight contesting in the state. Accordingly, our Party started its election campaign in full swing through printed posters, leaflets, life

sketches, mass meetings etc. popularising the 'Bicycle' symbol for those seven candidates. But after a few days, to our great surprise and detriment the Election Commission suddenly cancelled the previous allotment of bicycle symbol to our candidates severely affecting their election prospects.

(Contd. to Page 8)

Tripura Election—Its Meaning and Lessons

In the Tripura assembly election, 56 candidates out of sixty fielded by CPI(M) led 'Left Front' have won the remaining four seats have gone to Tripura Upajati Juba Samity (TUJS), all other parties and important groups have not only been defeated but most of their candidates have forfeited deposits. This election, among other things has also set up a new record about forfeiture of deposits. It will be obvious from the fact that out of 60 Congress candidates 31, 48 out of 59 Janata candidates, 50 of the CFD candidates including the sitting MP Sachindralal Sing out of 59 and 15 out of 27 TUJS candidates lost their deposits. Over and above the fact that Congress, Janata, CFD drew blank, another significant feature of election is the 'record' high percentage of polling. Out of the total electorate of 9 lakhs 61 thousands, 7 lakhs 50 thousands were valid votes cast, the average being as high as 79.51 p.c. This also is unprecedented for the state of Tripura.

Now, the very result of record high percentage of the poll which shows a polling, complete rout of

the established bourgeois parties like the Congress and Janata Party as also a landslide victory in favour of CPI(M) and its allies can be really a 'people's victory' if it stands the test of reasonings. That is to say, we are to take into account the basic fact that in the bourgeois parliamentary system where elections are being held in our country, the polling apparatus is controlled and conducted by the top bureaucracy including high officials of the police and intelligence department through which

the bourgeoisie translates its will and design. In spite of this basic limitation, a party or combination of parties upholding the genuine interests of the toiling people can force their victory over the desire and intention of the bourgeoisie by sufficient mass pressure and organisation. That is to say, a landslide victory of this scale can only be possible through the organised force of the people developed through high degree of consciousness and alertness as a result of organised mighty mass movement

against the capitalist rule of exploitation. But the organised force of another kind can be at work to make the poll result a fantastic one as it started happening since 1972. It is then a spurious victory being the creation not of people's verdict but the verdict of the ruling class translated into reality by the organised act of manipulation of electoral results by the top level of bureaucracy in whose control and command election in

(Contd. to Page 2)

In absence of organised mighty movement of the people Landslide Victory at the poll means a verdict not of the people but of the Ruling Class

(Contd. from Page 1)
bourgeois parliamentary system remains. It therefore means a high degree of political corruption whose beneficiary is usually a party or combination of parties that gets all kinds of backing and blessings of the ruling bourgeoisie. The bourgeois dailies, the Chambers of Commerce and the whole lot of hired intellectuals sing in chorus to cover up the sordid act that lies beneath the so-called victory.

Let us examine the Tripura election results from this logical perspective.

The Background of the Election

Tripura assembly was on extended lease of life by virtue of 42nd Amendment of the Constitution till October last year, even after the election of the state assemblies which were dissolved last year by the presidential order. CPI(M) which was very much vociferous about dissolution of those assemblies which were on extended lease of life did not demand so in Tripura. No mass movement was organised nor was there any protest against continuation of the assembly. Rather it participated in the coalition ministry first with the breakaway section of the Congress MLAs who later formed the CFD under the leadership of the sitting MP Sachindralal Sing. CPI(M)'s Polit Bureau member, Sri Promode Dasgupta justified this unethical and opportunist act by saying that in the interest of holding a 'fair election', they had joined the coalition ministry. The Polit Bureau of the party now says that "in the interests of the defence of the people the CPI(M) had joined two coalitions in Tripura" (People's Democracy 8.1.78.)

However, whether it is for having this 'fair election' or for 'defence of the interests of the people' CPI(M) first joined the CFD coalition and then

withdrew the support of its 16 MLAs to topple the Profulla Das ministry in July '77. It then joined the second coalition with the Janata Party with Radhika Ranjan Gupta as Chief Minister which was further toppled in October last by CPI(M). In the words of the Statesman friendly and sympathetic to CPI(M): "The gamble has richly paid off".

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that at the time of going to the first coalition ministry when the Assembly in Tripura was on its extended lease of life by virtue of 42nd Amendment, CPI(M) leadership tried to rationalise its political opportunism and unethical behaviour by holding that President's rule was the most reprehensible thing that the people could accept. But why that Party reversed its opinion just after six months or so and demanded President's rule before the election after having toppled the ministry for the second time remains unanswered. Is it because that politics of exigency does not require even formal consistency?

The important point to note is that when a massive and sweeping victory of such a scale usually presupposes a popular upsurge in the wake of a mighty mass movement on the burning problems in people's life, there was not only no such movement, nor even any talk of movement in Tripura by CPI(M) and its allies long before the Emergency and even after it was formally lifted.

CPI(M) now talks about non-fulfilment of the programme by its coalition partners as if it sincerely hoped that those would be fulfilled by the breakaway Congress and Janata MLAs who were their partners and if once justified its unethical political conduct by holding out this false hope to the people. Later it accused its partners and toppled the ministry twice

but never gave a call to the people or took any initiative to build up mighty mass movement to bring sufficient pressure for the fulfilment of the said programme. Why did they not do it? Could not the public interests be really defended, public enthusiasm roused and the principles of leftism guarded if they developed a mighty mass movement with all sincerity? So, if the party now shows its concern for people's interests how much sincerity one can see in it? It is hard to believe even for the politically credulous people.

So, excepting this toppling business or dirty bourgeois parliamentary game did CPI(M) do anything that can bring so much massive support as election results would have us believe? Again, when the victory at the poll is on such a massive scale, could it remain a matter of speculation? Could it not have its reflection and surest indication in the mood and enthusiasm of the people? Was there anything like that? Describing the mood of the people, a leftist weekly wrote in its despatch: "Candidates with their activists are going to the people who this time seem very apathetic and least concerned about any change in the government. Even continuance of President's rule is no matter, it appears".

(Frontier—December 24-31, '77)

In the background of this election, there was no mighty mass movement, nor any mass enthusiasm and high degree of awareness, on the contrary, a dirty bourgeois parliamentary game of toppling the ministries was going on and that too by CPI(M), the biggest 'left' force in the eyes of the people of the state. People's choice became very much restricted particularly when they saw that CPI(M) instead of taking up their cause sincerely through building up of mighty

movement was very much busy in showing its eagerness to defend the bourgeois law and order and getting certificates from the monopoly houses, and even the Rear Admirals. Under such a situation people's organised force based on consciousness and organisation loses its relevance and the poll becomes dependent on the objective alignment of political parties and forces, and above all on the backing of the ruling class through the bureaucratic administrative machinery.

Let us see therefore what was the pre-poll position of the parties in Tripura.

Pre-poll position of the political parties

During the election of 1972 in Tripura which was not called a 'rigged' one by CPI(M), this party got 16 seats in the Assembly of 60 members. In the parliamentary poll also it lost one of the two seats it won before. In the parliamentary poll of March 1977, Janata Party including the CFD faction won both the seats defeating Congress and CPI(M). It was no question, therefore, of giving support to Janata Party by CPI(M), rather it fielded two of its stalwarts as the candidates, Sri Dasarath Deb, former MP and Sri Nripen Chakravarty, the present Chief Minister. Sri Sachindralal Sing, the former Chief Minister and the present CFD leader defeated Sri Chakravarty by a huge margin and his nearest rival was the Congress candidate. CPI(M) did not say that it was a 'rigged' election. So, till March last year, CPI(M) had no hold over the electorate rather its position was further worsened. What now happens within the next six months that even Sri S. L. Sing lost his deposits in the Assembly Poll? What other than toppling business was there in Tripura politics and that too by CPI(M)? Can it be said that for successfully toppling the ministry

twice, the people have come in massive support of this party?

Let us now see what was the assessment before the poll about its results even by a paper which has hailed the victory of CPI(M) in Tripura. The correspondent of the Economic Times, in his despatch of 25th December '77 under the caption "Absolute majority for any party unlikely" gave a factual report about the influence and base of the contesting political parties. It took into account (1) Congress hold in rural areas, (2) Sri S.L. Sing's hold over scheduled caste community over and above his personal pull, (3) TUIJS's growing hold and influence among tribal voters in hill areas replacing those of CPI(M) reflected in last parliamentary poll.

He also noted that CPI(M) led 'Left Front' was hoping for a 'comfortable majority', this time. Another significant point the correspondent noted: "Besides fielding all their state level leaders on the state election for the first time, the Employees' Co-ordination Committee has extended its full support to the 'Left Front'. They also placed four of their top ranking leaders in the election fray as independents supported by the Front". He summed up his report by saying: "While political observers are hesitant to comment anything as to whether any party would get absolute majority, they however opined that possibilities of a coalition after election would not be ruled out. It is interesting to note that neither the Left Front nor the Janata Party is much vocal against each other, rather both of them have concentrated their attack on Congress".

(Italics added)

So, in the assessment of their paper, there was no possibility of absolute majority for any party and even the most optimistic supporter of the

(Contd. to Page 6)

How Peaceful is Rural Bengal and Who Reaps the Harvest

The 'Left Front' Government led by CPI(M) makes a clamorous claim that this time, under its rule, 'peace' prevailed during the harvesting in rural Bengal and there were fewer clashes and less people—all poor peasants were killed and that its harvesting policy of "He who tilled shall have the harvest" has been successful. Facts being the best judge of what the policy really means, we give some of the tale-telling instances, among hundreds of such instances occurred in all the districts from which it will not be difficult for anyone to draw the right conclusion.

24 PARGANAS

Joynagar P.S.

Moktar Molla, Moktar Sheikh and another share-cropper of Jugipara under Baishata Anchal had for long been tilling 18 bighas of land as share-croppers of Sm. Sulalita Bisu, a big land owner of Calcutta. But this year, five CPI(M) members along with their leader Arun Ghosh and the BDO—all members of the 'Block Committee' formed by the 'Left Front' Government declared that the owner of the land tilled it through other persons as hired labours and the share-croppers did not till it. Comrade Probodh Purkait, our MLA from Kultali protested against such type of injustice done to the share-croppers by the CPI(M) leadership in connivance with the corrupt administration and the 'Block Committee' and demanded fair share for the share-croppers but his repeated request for at least an impartial enquiry in the case, has been turned down.

Canning P.S.

In Garhballi village under Itkhola Anchal when Kalipada Sardar and eight other registered share-croppers for nearly ten years stacked their paddy after reaping it from the field the owner of the land, a jotedar, Moti Naskar seized the paddy with the help of police and police declared that the seizure had been done in pursuance of the decision of the 'Block Committee' at the dictate of local CPI(M). In another incident under the same PS in Pangaskhali Village of Nikarighata Anchal, Jirat Sardar, Asrat Sardar and other three brothers had been tilling 18 bighas of land (khatian no. 112) as share-croppers of a notorious jotedar Gaffar Molla who

was trying for long to evict them from the land. This time the CPI(M) came to his aid. Local CPI(M) leaders provided the jotedar with some of their followers who agreed to stand as fake share-croppers. The jotedar prayed for injunction in the Baruipur Camp Court with a complaint that those people were planning to reap the harvest. By this trick, the actual share-croppers were tried to be wiped-out. The jotedar got the injunction prayed for. Then when the real share-cropper along with other co-villagers were on the way on 17th November to join the Great November Anniversary meeting organised by our party CPI(M) workers along with the men of the jotedar escorted and guarded by police reaped the paddy of a portion of the land. But as the whole operation was planned and executed by CPI(M) in league with police officials, no action was taken by the local PS even after complaint was filed.

Later, when the JLRO was on his way on 21st November to make an on the spot investigation he was prevented by local CPI(M) leaders. However, the JLRO directed both the parties—the real share-cropper Sardar brothers and the jotedar - CPI(M) combine to be present with their respective witnesses at the Camp Court on 23rd November. On that day thirty to forty people residing near the disputed land gave their evidence in favour of Sardar brothers in presence of the JLRO, BDO and the OC and on the other hand, only two persons in support of CPI(M) backed jotedar were present before the enquiry. The date for pronouncing the verdict was fixed on 29th November last. In the mean time, the CPI(M) workers began

to campaign that they would harvest the crop with the help of police because the OC, BDO and the JLRO were all acting in favour of them. However on the 29th evening this was proved correct, for the verdict went in favour of jotedar-CPI(M) combine. But as soon as the news spread out nearly seven to eight hundred poor people came in support of the actual share-croppers who reaped the harvest. Shouting slogans, 'Eviction of share-croppers with the help of police and administration must be stopped,' 'Protecting the jotedars' interest in the name of leftism must not be allowed' the poor peasants stood in guard. By that time the CPI(M) seeing their game gone to waste ordered the police to come to their rescue. The OC of Canning PS himself with a full battalion of armed police attacked the peasants at the field and arrested three of the Sardar brothers along with four SUCI workers. Naturally, after this incident there was widespread grievances and hatred among the local people against the CPI(M) politics.

On the 7th December last, under the leadership of the SUCI and KKMf a protest demonstration of nearly three to four thousand peasants with the demand of release of the arrested seven peasants and to draw the attention of the BDO towards four other similar incidents of forcibly harvesting of the paddy of poor peasants and share-croppers by the jotedars with the help of police was organised before the office of the BDO, Canning. Besides the BDO, the SDO and the DSP were also present there. A written memorandum was handed over to them and they had to concede to the demands for immediate

release of all the poor peasants and share-croppers and review of the cases where the share-croppers were deprived from their legitimate share of crops.

MIDNAPORE

Narayangarh P S

But the most serious and interesting one of all is the case of Kusda village in Narayangarh PS in Midnapore district. Since the installation of the 'Left Front' Government in West Bengal the CPI(M) leadership in Narayangarh PS has been openly spreading the threat that no one should be allowed to support or move for any political party other than CPI(M) and is intimidating and torturing the people particularly the poor peasant, share-croppers and the daily labourers in various ways.

A poor peasant Sri Nanigopal Ojha of Kusda Village holding only three acres of land had organised the election campaign in his locality in favour of the SUCI candidate Com. Panchanan Pradhan during the last assembly election and for this the local CPI(M) leadership was angry. In the last month, the CPI(M) leaders and the workers called for Sri Ojha in their meeting and directed him to leave SUCI and join the CPI(M) since, according to them, everybody in the village, even the former Congressites had joined the CPI(M). The former Congressites had, however, surrendered to them. But Sri Ojha did not submit to their threat and intimidation. Then the CPI(M) leadership threatened the agricultural labourers of dire consequences if they till or co-operate in tilling Sri Ojha's land. When Sri Ojha was harvesting his paddy on the last 11th December in his field (Khatian No. 304, Dag No. 30) with the help of some SUCI supporter tribal labourers the CPI(M) workers with some fifty to sixty men armed with lethal weapons rushed to the field and threatened them of serious consequences and demanded of stopping the harvesting. They again declared that

until and unless Sri Ojha left SUCI and joined CPI(M) he would not be allowed to reap his paddy. When the local police, on their way to a nearby village, incidentally came to the spot and enquired into the matter, the CPI(M) workers reported to them that Sri Ojha had been forcibly cutting the paddy to deprive one Dukhu Sing and promptly presented a person named Dukhu Sing falsely claiming that he was the share-cropper of Sri Ojha. But everybody knows in the village that Sri Ojha is the owner of the land and he had personally cultivated his land. Besides he himself is a share-cropper. But police seized the paddy and directed to refrain from cutting the rest of the paddy in the field till the JLRO submits his reports after his enquiry. During the enquiry on 19.12.77, a good number of villagers, in spite of threat and intimidation, gave evidence in favour of Sri Ojha. CPI(M) could not produce witness because most of the persons who had been formerly forced to give evidence for the fake share-cropper refused to stand before the Inspector in the JLRO's office. On the same day further enquiry was made by the JLRO but the report has still not been placed as the Block Committee has not passed it for bringing to the knowledge of the parties involved. Incidentally it should be mentioned that these Block Committees are composed of the JLRO, BDO, officers of Food Dept., the local MLA and representatives of all parties of 'Left Front' led by CPI(M) and parties including the Congress but excluding SUCI. In such a situation Sri Ojha has repeatedly appealed to the Block Committee, local OC, the JLRO and the SDO for immediately informing the parties of finding and giving him permission to harvest the paddy of his own land but to no result. This is a good specimen of their harvesting policy being successful in operation. The method is no different

(Contd. to Page 7)

(Contd. from Page 1)

President of the Rourkela Workers' Union and Comrade Pritish Chanda member of the Central Committee, SUCI and general secretary All India UTUC (Lenin Sarani) addressed the gathering as the main speaker. The meeting started with the song composed on the great leader of the proletariat **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** presented by the DYO music squad.

In his long illuminating speech Comrade Chanda said that it is high time the workers, peasants and the toiling people of our country should realise the root cause of their problems and miseries. They should realise as to why, despite innumerable militant movements and enormous sacrifice, all the problems confronting their lives still remain unresolved. After the Emergency was lifted and elections held non-Congress Governments in the centre as well as several states were installed. All the parties excepting SUCI raised a hue and cry that a great change has taken place in the country. But has any change really taken place in the lives of the workers, peasants, students, teachers and other sections of the exploited people asked Comrade Chanda. In fact, no change has come in their lives, nor has their problems been solved. On the contrary, just like the Congress Governments, the governments run by the Janata in the Centre and in different states as well as the CPI (M) led "Left Front" in West Bengal are suppressing the legitimate democratic movements of the toiling people with lathis and bullets. Comrade Chanda continued, the problems that are confronting the lives of the people are all emanating from the exploitative capitalist system of our country. And so long this system continues, no matter who runs the government, there will be no basic solution of the problems of the peoples' lives—no end of exploitation. It is known to all that socialism can be

achieved only on the ashes of capitalism. But those who talk of bringing socialism keeping this capitalist system in tact, are arch enemies of the people—they are all hypocrites.

Continuing Comrade Chanda said, some say that with the increase of production people's standard of living will rise. It is a blatant lie. Did not production rise during the last thirty years? But has the standard of living of the toiling people risen? No. On the contrary it has gone down and are going down with days passing. Who then reaped the benefit of the increased production? The monopolists, the hoarders, black marketeers, speculators, the jotedars have amassed wealth at the cost of people's miseries. Working people must know that their real emancipation lies in the revolutionary overthrow of this capitalist order and they must engage themselves whole heartedly for that.

So to mislead the working people from their real goal of emancipation, to distract them from the revolutionary path, to save this crisis ridden, moribund capitalism the capitalist class is trying to infiltrate economism and reformism in the working class movement with the help of the pseudo revolutionaries. The working people must be conscious of them and fight them out. The trade union can really be the instrument of struggle for the emancipation of the working class when it is guided by revolutionary leadership. Naturally, working people of India should search out and strengthen such a trade union which is capable enough to lead the working class of India in their cherished goal of emancipation from capitalist exploitation. It is the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and its affiliated unions, led and guided by the teachings of the great leader of the proletariat **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, are the only hope before the toiling people in our country. So he appealed to all present to strengthen the Rourkela Workers'

Steel Workers' Conference At Rourkela Held Amidst Great Enthusiasm

Union with all their might and thus strengthen the UTUC (Lenin Sarani), the only revolutionary trade union organisation in our country.

In his presidential speech, Comrade Tapas Dutta congratulated the people of Rourkela for their active help in making this historic conference a grand success. He urged upon the steel workers to become conscious of their revolutionary role and unite under the banner of Rourkela Workers' Union to strengthen it to perform its due role.

Comrade B. Jena, general secretary of the Rourkela Workers' Union, Comrade T. K. Day, general secretary of the Bokaro Steel Plant Workers' Union and Comrade N. C. Roy, secretary Durgapur Steel Workers' Coordination Committee also addressed the gathering.

After the meeting a documentary film on the liberation struggle of Vietnam was shown.

The delegate session on 22nd January was presided over by Comrade Tapas Dutta and Comrade Pritish Chanda addressed the gathering as the main speaker. Condoling the demise of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the former President of UTUC (Lenin Sarani), the founder general secretary of SUCI, one of the eminent Marxist thinkers of this era, the great leader of the proletariat a homage was read out and the delegates stood in silence for one minute to pay their solemn homage to their beloved departed leader.

Comrade B. Jena, general secretary of Rourkela Workers' Union placed an elaborate report on the activities of the union. In his report he pointed out that the Rourkela Workers' Union right from the period of the construction of the Rourkela Steel Plant had been leading the movements of the workers. Besides many others, the

movements of the construction workers, first batch POTs, Fertiliser Plant Workers and Purunapani Mines Workers are worth mentioning. The historic movement of the Industrial Estate Workers a few years back in which two of our comrades lay their lives has no parallel in the history of the working peoples' movements in Orissa.

He reminded the glorious role of the leadership of the Rourkela Workers' Union, the only dependable leadership to whose credit goes the successes of the working class movements sweeping over the entire territory from Jharsuguda to Bisra. He also mentioned in this connection, about the glorious role played by Rourkela Workers' Union in the last Movement on Bonus issue vis-a-vis the role of betrayal of the other unions. He demanded of the government to adopt the policy of non-interference of police in legitimate democratic movement. He urged upon all to strengthen the Rourkela Workers' Union with all their might.

Addressing the gathering as the main speaker Comrade Pritish Chanda said that today the door of progress and advancement of the society is closed due to the exploitative moribund capitalist system. That is why history demands a change. But no change, that will really advance the cause of the society—the workers, peasants and the toiling masses—can come so long the question of leadership is not determined, so long the revolutionary leadership is not established once for all.

The moribund capitalism in its attempt to prolong its life is trying to pollute the working class movement with reformism, opportunism. The working people of the country must realise this and reject out and out the pseudo-left, pseudo-revolutionary force

—the hirelings of the capitalist class—if they want to advance their struggle for emancipation. It is UTUC (Lenin Sarani), the only genuine working class organisation in our country that can lead the working people of our country on to the correct path. Concluding his speech Comrade Chanda said in an emotion rousing voice, it is the historic duty of all workers of our country to strengthen this organisation, led and guided by the teachings of the great leader of the proletariat, one of the eminent Marxist thinkers of the era, our beloved leader, teacher and guide **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**.

Comrade Banipada Das moved the main political resolution. The resolution laid bare the real character of Janata Party and the CPI (M) and urged upon the workers to muster their strength for the success of socialist revolution.

Comrade S. K. Kabi moved a thirty eight point demand resolution which included among others the demands for reinstatement of workers victimised during the Emergency, restoration, preservation and extension of trade union rights; non-interference of police in trade union movements; abolition of clause—31 from standing order; extension and improvement in education and medical facility. Comrades D. D. Pattnaik, Ranjit Dutta, J. S. Rout, Kanhai Mohanto, K. K. Dasmohapatra, U. Prasad, S. P. Mohanty and B. B. Behara spoke in support of the above resolution.

Comrade G. P. Dhal moved the resolution condemning the "Bhoothlingam Committee" set up by the Union Government to forestall the wage revision of the workers. He moved another resolution which urged upon the working class to boycott the "Nilkanta Ratha Committee on Price Index". Comrade Benode Rout spoke in support.

(Contd. to Page 8)

SANTALDIH

The Left Front Government sets up a Record of anti-Working Class Attitude

The 'left' nomenclature of the government in West Bengal has already become a standing joke after its veritable performances in suppressing the legitimate democratic movement of the workers, poor peasants, the students and other toiling sections of the people. The recent instance that has brought to light this government's utterly authoritarian and bureaucratic attitude in trying to suppress the legitimate democratic movement of the electricity workers of Santaldih Power Plant in Purulia district, West Bengal must evoke a serious concern to all those who want to defend the future of legitimate democratic movement.

The workers of the Santaldih Power Plant all except those who are paying loyalty to the dictates of CITU bosses, have been in continuous movement for more than a month in defence of their legitimate rights against bureaucratic high handedness of the West Bengal Government. The government have most unjustly charge sheeted a worker as a sequel to an incident which demanded 'disciplining' not of the workers but of the officers of the plant. The government chose to defend the erring officers and to teach a 'lesson' to the workers who had the nerve to demand that steps be taken against the officers. This happens under a ministry which is in the direct charge of no less a person than Sri Jyoti Basu the Vice-president of CITU's All India body! The 'disciplining' of the workers is being personally conducted by Sri Basu, the Chief Minister, by refusing to withdraw the charge-sheet, by bringing more than three hundred police force under the command of SP and DIG of Hooghly Burdwan Range, within and around the plant to intimidate and suppress the workers' movement, by a smear campaign against the workers in the press and through borrowed people collected from areas outside the locality and finally making preparations for drafting outside people to run the plant. This is a unique exercise of breaking the legitimate trade union movement which even the previous Congress regime could not possibly claim as its achievement and

portends a serious threat to the future of legitimate democratic movement in the state. It brings to bold relief this governments' real intention and *modus operandi* in enforcing 'peace' and 'discipline' in the industrial field to earn the blessings of the ruling class. Let us recall the incident that took place on 7th January which one must remember as the back-drop of all the future developments.

On that date, at about noon, when a mason of the mechanical wing was working within a boiler, Sri Sujit Roy, Assistant Electrical Engineer gave the order for Impeller testing in the said boiler without obtaining clearance from the mechanical wing which was a must. Because of this act of criminal irresponsibility, the life of the worker working within the boiler was perilously at stake. It was almost a hair-breadth escape for him because of the presence of mind and courage that he and his assistant showed by instantly lying down as the Impeller entered into the boiler. But for this, the worker's body would have been smashed and thrown down to 80 ft depth. This was the incident that roused the anger of the workers and naturally they demanded of the Assistant Engineer who gave that fateful order without minimum caution, to apologise for his conduct and ensure that no such act of utter callousness would occur. Was it wrong? No sane person would call it wrong nor would he divert his judge-

ment to such trifles as to whether in that spur of the moment, the Engineer concerned was subjected to scuffles or any indignities. Such things though unwanted do occur but no well intentioned person makes it a major point and magnifies it out of proportion to malign the workers. This is the trick of the hirelings of the bourgeoisie who never miss any stick to beat the workers movement. But curious though, nonetheless, the Vice-President of all India CITU the Chief Minister and the Polit Bureau member of CPI(M) Sri Jyoti Basu has exactly done it. He has given a lead in the smear campaign by observing in the Press that the workers by this movement were trying to establish "their right to beat up" the officers! But he outbid his predecessors in the government in performances like this against the workers and their legitimate movement. This will be obvious when the full story will be unfolded.

As a result of workers' protest and agitation against the criminal callousness of the officer, the Chief Engineer came to the plant on 10th January and normalcy was restored at his intervention through bilateral talks and agreement. But the Chief Engineer probably did not know the planning of administration which came to light later on. On 11th January afternoon, one charge man Sri Kamal Ghosh was charge-sheeted by the Secretary of the State Electricity Board. So, normalcy and peace in the plant was disturbed not by the workers but by the government through its vindictive measure.

Now, this act of not pulling up the irresponsible Engineer but picking up a worker for disciplinary measures was loaded with provocation and a sinister design. The natural question is when the Chief Minister who is also Minister-in-Charge of

SUCI Candidates in Andhra

Comrade R. Majumder (Uttarapalli Constituency)—Joined Anusilan Samity in 1927 and started political activity in Barisal now in Bangladesh. Was arrested in 1934 and was imprisoned for three years. He was arrested again in 1942. In connection with the movement for linguistic reorganisation of States he came to Andhra in 1951. He was elected the local secretary of the All India Linguistic States Conference. He was arrested in Vijaywada in 1957. He came in contact with SUCI while organising the struggles of the construction workers. Since then Comrade Majumder has actively engaged himself to build up Agricultural Workers' Federation (Khet Mojur Federation) in Andhra.

Comrade Pitchi Pilli Dasu (Vizianagaram Constituency)—A rickshawpuller, an ardent fighter of the down-trodden people and social worker of the locality. A devoted worker in the struggle of the agricultural labourers and poor peasants, was arrested during the Emergency for his active participation in the movement for distribution of vested land among the poor peasants. Through this struggle he came in contact with our Party.

Comrade Tuvvapu Tudu (Srungavarapukota ST. Constituency)—Actively engaged in the struggle of the poor peasants and particularly of the tribal people. He is vastly honoured among the tribal people for his fearlessness and honesty. At present an important organiser of the Agricultural Workers' Federation.

Comrade S. Adhinarayam (Gajapathinagaram Constituency)—A man of the masses, belongs to the lower rung of the society. He knows what is the lot of the poor peasants subjugated under the grinding machine of the capitalist exploitation. Realising that it is only mass movement and mass organisation of the poor people that can change their lot he has been with the struggles launched by the Khet Major Federation.

Comrade Khilari Pokham Naidu (Bheemunipatanam Constituency)—Arrested during the movement on the demand of cheap price for agricultural commodities to be purchased by the poor peasants. He is in the left and democratic movement of the State since 1968. He is the President of the "Workers Sections' Association" and formerly the Chairman of the Co-operative Bank of Chirtana.

Electricity was daily herping on the necessity of keeping intact the productivity of electricity in the plants how could a bureaucrat of his ministry take this vindictive step without his consent or approval? The minister instead of allowing the bureaucrat to disturb peace and normalcy in the plant, could have well taken the matter in his own hands and taken a sympathetic understanding about the workers genuine problem. Why did not he do it? This was the most normal thing to do. But what followed would tell the reasons for doing otherwise. All workers in the plant including the few belonging to CITU union demanded the withdrawal of charge-sheet till a leader of CITU came and directed his men to oppose the

movement as it was in the eye of CITU a 'conspiracy' against the government, a lead to this propaganda having been given by their leader who is the minister incharge and the Chief Minister. A CITU leaflet went to the extent of telling the workers that 'show cause' notices were nothing new but for that agitational programme which meant loss of wages as also disturbance in electricity supply was nothing but 'conspiratorial' in nature! What a wonderful role CITU is to play in West Bengal and in fact wherever in future CPI(M) will come to government? Is it any the less different from the role INTUC played for long during the Congress rule? It is different in its more deceptive cloak and methods.

(Contd. to Page 8)

The monopolists, the police, the bureaucracy and not the toiling people have enough reason to be enthusiastic about CPI(M)'s performance in West Bengal

(Contd. from Page 2)

front was claiming the possibility only of a 'comfortable majority'. There was no political fight between the Front and the Janata Party and political observers were hinting at the possibility of a coalition ministry of these two parties. The entry of Co-ordination's state leaders as front-supported candidates in the election was no doubt a significant event more so because of its open support to the front as the correspondent noted.

The CPI(M) State Committee also in a separate press release after the poll, has thanked "the officers and staff of the Tripura Government who conducted the election in a 'fair and smooth way'." (Economic Times—4.1.78) Surely under the circumstances, for transforming what was expected to be a 'comfortable majority' into a landslide victory the officers and staff who form the polling machinery must have a big role and they deserved its grateful acknowledgment which has been done! But how do the leaders of that party try to justify this miracle and what is their real worth needs examination.

West Bengal Government's influence

Sri Jyoti Basu, in rationalising this poll result has said that "the performance of the 'Left Front' Government in West Bengal must have influenced the minds of Tripura voters who had gone through a lot of experience and 'have evidently drawn the correct conclusion'" (Economic Times 3.1.78) Now, who has drawn the 'correct' conclusion? The term 'people' sometimes is misleading because it is constituted by both the exploiter and the exploited sections. Can anything please or satisfy the interests, conflicting at that of both? The bourgeois press has given vent to its joy and satisfaction but the reticence of the toiling

people both in West Bengal and Tripura is obvious. Even the 'victory' processions organised by CPI (M) in West Bengal did not come nearer to what would have been natural. However, even if we assume that West Bengal 'Left Front' Government's 'performance' was the matter for consideration that weighed heavily at the poll in Tripura then also the assesment or conclusion could not be the same for the bourgeoisie and the vested interest on the one hand and the toiling people on the other. The exploited toiling people in Tripura have seen that CPI(M) notwithstanding the 'Marxist' signboard attached to it and the promises it made once, have long renounced the path of class struggle and militant mass movement. Wherever it has come to government, it has come openly against strike or any form of movement even if they are on people's legitimate demands and is advising the workers and peasants to seek 'legal' and 'conciliation' channels instead as the Congress Ministers used to say. CPI(M) Ministers and leaders, as in West Bengal are showing their whole concern for 'peace' and 'discipline' in the industrial and rural areas so that monopoly houses both national and foreign as also the jotedars can feel encouraged to invest money and give jobs to the unemployed youths. This is the line which Sri Charan Singh not only defends in the parliament but certifies being most faithfully followed by the West Bengal Ministry. Sri Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister also boastfully claims that West Bengal is the most 'peaceful' state which Sri Siddhartha Sankar Roy could not ensure.

Common people for long, have been hearing 'law and order' 'peace' 'discipline' from the Congress Ministers and leaders and know from

their experience what they really mean in this class divided capitalist society. They mean absence of resistance from the exploited masses against the mounting capitalist exploitation—perfect security and smooth going of the rule of exploitation of the capitalist class. So the defence of this bourgeois law and order as also peace is nothing but the defence of the bourgeois rule of exploitation against the vital interests of the exploited masses. This is the reason why on every vital question of people's life, be it giving minimum relief to the common people by taking stern measures against the hoarders and speculators or making arrangement for public distribution of essential commodities through wholesale and retail state trading in food and other essential commodities, be it expansion and democratisation of education and educational institutions, improvement in electricity, transport and other civil amenities, the 'Left Front' Government in West Bengal is covering up its failures by pointing at the centre. But whenever the question comes of ruthless suppression of any genuine movement of the exploited people—the workers, poor peasants, students, teachers, this government is showing alertness and hardly waits for the centre. The government has the least hesitation in sending police and ordering it to demonstrate its brutal force. It is crying for 'autonomy' or more powers but is encroaching on the autonomy of educational institutions and elected public bodies, and whatever autonomy or power it has got it does not apply that for the benefit of the exploited common people. Such in short, is its 'performance' which can never bring cheers to the exploited toiling people but it does bring cheers to the bourgeoisie as is obvious from the praises the monopoly houses, vested interest

bourgeois dailies and the bourgeois hirelings are presently showering on CPI(M) and the government it leads. They all have found in CPI(M) a trusted political force which will work within the existing framework of bourgeois exploitative system not to organise and lead the exploited people to the path of its overthrow but to perpetuate it by bourgeois legalism and talks of reforms through changes in the bourgeois constitution after attaining parliamentary majority. This is their goal, the end of their 'revolution'-peaceful, smooth, step by step revolution!

So, this 'performance' of CPI(M) led government in West Bengal can by no stretch of imagination, nor by the law of social movement be the cause of any inspiration to the exploited masses and draw their massive support as the results at the poll in Tripura would have us believe. No sensible and unbiased mind can have any point of disagreement on this score.

The underlying reasons

There are therefore apparent and most palpable contradictory features in the Tripura poll results which can not escape from any rational analysis.

For example, how can the unprecedented high percentage of polling be justified and interpreted as people's massive participation in absence of public enthusiasm and interest which was marked before the poll in Tripura? Could people's enthusiasm and participation be possible without any mighty movement against the mounting capitalist exploitation from which they have been suffering for long? Did the CPI(M) led front face the people's verdict on the crest of a high tide of mass movement organised by them? Were they not guilty of indulging in vile bourgeois politics of manipulation and toppling of ministries on the eve of election? That being the fact, how can the political

trend in the state be reversed completely in favour of CPI(M) within so short a time after the parliamentary poll which revealed dwindling public support in its favour? Again, if the extreme factor is counted, how can CPI(M)'s performance in West Bengal be the cause of inspiration to the toiling people in Tripura when they saw only the bourgeoisie was showering praises for the CPI(M) ministry? Again assuming but not accepting that the victory in Tripura was the victory of the cause of the toiling people in Tripura then how is it that the bourgeois dailies under the control of leading monopoly houses are expressing their jubilations and satisfaction at this result? How can the satisfaction of the exploiter and the exploited coincide in this major political development in the state?

These are, among other things the most pertinent questions which can not be glossed over by empty rhetorics and boastings. These questions inevitably lead to the only other possibility—the possibility of an organised force having worked in and through the bureaucratic administrative setup controlling and conducting the election and framing up the results to the satisfaction of the ruling bourgeois class.

After the poll, both the Janata Party and the Congress have raised the serious complaints of rigging the election results that surprised even the winners and pointed at the government officers and staff for this whom the CPI(M) has congratulated for conducting the election in a fair and smooth way. The parties who have been the losers in the game complained while the gainer praised and congratulated. It shows the bottom, political morality of these parties has now touched. The Janata Party categorised a number of gross irregularities that were noticed in the Tripura poll like inflating the voters' list with underage voters, flying squads for false

(Contd. to Page 7)

In their move to install Two-Party system the bourgeoisie is definitely favouring CPI(M) as the third alternative

(Contd. from Page 6)

voting, partial behaviour including open canvassing and working for CPI(M) by Presiding and Polling Officers, broken seals of ballot boxes at the counting tables and even the possibility of using duplicate ballots (Yuger Dak.14.1.78). These, though allegations of serious nature, no doubt, are but the symptoms and do not get at the heart of the 'mystery' that works behind a rigged election as we analysed after the West Bengal assembly election in 1972 and recently after the Parliamentary Poll last year. Before the last parliamentary poll both CPI(M) and Janata leaders and after the poll, the CPI(M) leaders like Sri Promode Dasgupta brought serious complaint about large-scale rigging in the election results. Gross political corruption like printing of duplicate ballots was admitted by the Returning Officers and even by the government on the floor of the parliament but strangely enough neither the Janata Party leaders nor the CPI(M) after coming to government made any arrangement for a thorough investigation to take adequate measures for stopping this vile means although minimum respect to morality in public life demands it. The question is why they shy away even now from an open and thorough probe into all these complaints if they are really interested to restore minimum democratic norm, conduct and principles in public life? Are all these things for talking and not for practising? These parties think so. That is why Congress and even Smt. Indira Gandhi are now talking about stopping rigging in the election while they all said a different thing after the 1972 poll in West Bengal assembly when the fruits came to their hands. Today those who partake the 'fruits' shy away from taking concrete measures to stop it but tomorrow when they will be the losers, they will go even

outside India to tell the people how corrupt was the election.

One thing is therefore clear that behind the talk of restoration of democratic rights, one of the fundamental and solemn rights of the people in a bourgeois democracy e.g. the right to elect a government has lost all its meaning and relevance. And when it is the most solemn task not only for the revolutionary party but even for the parties and forces who also talk about democratic values and norms, if they really mean anything to stand for the restoration, preservation and further extension of the democratic norms, principles and rights, these parties who are so loud in their democratic phrase mongerings are actually lending their hands in grossest possible corruption of the political system to reap the so-called dividends. In the background of all this, is it difficult to explain the results of the Tripura poll? Whatever the CPI(M) leaders may say, at least their benefactors have not left the thing in mystery. The leading bourgeois dailies, the Statesman and the Economic Times, to mention just the two, in their editorials while hailing CPI(M)'s victory have spoken enough for an intelligent political worker to get at the truth. They say that when the image of the Congress was very much tarnished and it was showing the signs of disintegration, the Janata Party having no roots yet in the State, the CFD offering no prospect of stability, the choice was naturally the CPI(M). Sri Promode Dasgupta, CPI(M) Polit Bureau member also confirmed this fact. But the choice was surely of the ruling class and that is why it was hailing the victory and advising this party not to lose its head but work within the existing framework of capitalist system peacefully as it has been doing in West Bengal. The bourgeoisie knows that the party it favours

also knows what to do as is evident from CPI(M)'s performance in West Bengal. The Economic Times in its editorial of 5th January never misses to remind that.

The Lessons

It testifies once more, the warning of our great departed leader and teacher **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** and the political analysis that our party placed immediately after the parliamentary poll, last year, our party alerted the toiling people that the bourgeoisie is positively working for the installation of two-party system in the country and in that move CPI(M) is being favoured as the third alternative besides the two big national parties Congress and the Janata. CPI(M) is being favoured and backed in the regional spheres where neither of these big parties can offer acceptability in terms of the role they are to play besides the internal troubles and group rivalries of these parties. It should however be remembered that when the bourgeoisie is wanting stability in administration amidst violent instabilities in the capitalist productive system it does not mean only stability in the ministry. It wants more. It means requirement of a political force which because of its past activities, the banner it carries, the vocabularies it utters, the public posture it adopts can dilute the accumulated grievances and indignation of the long suffered toiling people against the capitalist tyranny by arresting their militant movements from within and channelising those to the narrow bounds of parliamentarism-legalism-reformism. That CPI(M) being the cohesive force, has now taken upon itself this role, does not remain a secret from the chorus of praises it is now having daily from the monopoly houses, chambers of commerce, rural landed gentry, bourgeois dailies and periodicals, national and foreign monopoly lobbies and the pseudo-intellectual bourgeois

How Peaceful is Rural Bengal

(Contd. from Page 6)

in substance from what the Congress followed, the only difference is it is more deceptive and aims at corrupting the administrative machinery wholesale.

PURULIA

Bagmundi PS

In the Bagmundi PS of Purulia, when some poor share-croppers in defence of their right over a plot of vested benaam land moved the court, justice S. R. Chakraborty upheld their right and promulgated Sec-144 CrPc on the land on 29.10.77 against the illegal intrusion and interference of the jotedar who tried to recapture it. But defying even such court order the OC Satyen Pal of Suisa police out post gave the order of reaping the crop by the jotedar and provided the jotedar with police protection to loot the entire paddy. At this the local peasants under the leadership of SUCI when demonstrated against such illegal act of police Satyen Pal, OC of the police out post and fully drunk at that time used most abusive languages against them and threatened that SUCI people would be able to do nothing against him and, on the country, if they further protest or complain to the higher authority they would be arrested. Complaint against

such criminal and illegal activities of this police officer has been lodged before the SDO, Deputy Commissioner, SP and Inspector General of Police but in vain.

In another incident when more than one hundred peasants under the leadership of SUCI workers demonstrated before the Suisa police out post on 14.12.77 in protest against forcible collection of 'Bazar Masul' in Suisa Station Bazar by Forward Block workers the same OC Satyen Pal reportedly said: "You are all SUCI people. I will not take any case of SUCI people even if there be a case of murder. The Forward Block MLA Daman Kueri has instructed me so." The OC of Bagmundi Thana, Sri Anil Patra also replied in the same manner, "As you SUCI people do not support 'Left Front' policies the 'Left Front' Government has instructed me not to accept any complaint lodged by you or to listen to your complaint." And he flatly refused even to record the complaint in FIR book. Such is the nature of administration the 'Left Front' Government is running and this is how they 'protect' the interests of the poor and exploited. It is a common knowledge that the chain of rural vested interest built up during the long capitalist

(Contd. to Page 8)

hirelings. They all chant in praise—only the poor, the oppressed and humiliated give a sullen look, they have been betrayed.

It is to those we address, they must remember that experiences, even the experiences of worst sufferings have no meaning unless they are integrated with the lessons of history, the lessons of revolutionary science of Marxism-Leninism the best and finest expression, interpretation and elaboration of which have been presented in our era by **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the great teacher of the proletariat. They would do well to learn and grasp the great teachings of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** if they want to

come out of the tentacles of the intrigues of the bourgeois and social democratic parties in the midst of the all-embracing crisis of capitalism. They will realise that while all these bourgeois, pseudo-Marxist and pseudo-left parties have failed them, it is SUCI alone the party founded by **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, that remains as the only ray of hope to them, it is the only revolutionary party in our soil that is equal to the historic task of leading the exploited masses in our country to the path of anti-capitalist socialist revolution and bring the real emancipation of the society.

MAKE SUCI CANDIDATES VICTORIOUS IN ANDHRA & ASSAM

(Contd. from Page 1)

legitimate democratic mass movements within the four walls of parliamentarianism in the bid of the ruling class to offer this crisis-ridden capitalism a fresh lease of life. Failure of the Janata Party Government to repeal outright the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution, contemplation to enact another Preventive Detention law in place of MISA, using the coercive apparatus of the State to quell the legitimate democratic mass movements in different states and their pursuing of pro-monopoly, pro-jotedar policies shows no basic difference with the Congress. So, it will be the bounden duty of the people of Andhra and Assam to give defeat to this bourgeois alternative also in order to forestall the conspiracy of the 'two-party' system.

"Our party strongly feels that the formation of a united left and democratic front on the basis of a minimum programme and a code of conduct with the aim of defeating both these representatives of the bourgeois class and strengthening, step by step, the legitimate democratic mass movements as a precursor to anti-capitalist socialist revolution is the only solution at this phase of democratic mass movement.

It is a tragedy that the CPI and the CPI(M), although moving in the name of communism or Marxism-Leninism, in tune with their typical petty-bourgeois and Social Democratic character, have found it expedient to ally themselves with Congress and the Janata Party respectively which will only strengthen the hands of the ruling capitalist class. This non-left politics of these two parties should also be defeated, which can save the left and democratic movement of our toiling people.

Indian people have to find out a real alternative today. It is a matter of pride and delight that the Socialist Unity Centre of India founded and built up, brick by brick, by the great departed leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh is that alternative which has shown to our countrymen the correct path of anti-capitalist Socialist Revolution which alone can free people from all sorts of exploitation of man by man.

We appeal to the voters to make SUCI candidates victorious who alone can reflect the voice of extra-parliamentary movement inside the Assembly, the interest of legitimate democratic mass movement and enhance the cause of genuine leftism and emancipation of the people.

LIST OF THE SUCI CANDIDATES

ASSAM

- 1) Dholai (Sc.)
Suresh Ch. Chowdhury
- 2) Lakhipur
Prof. Radhakanta Tanti.
- 3) Patacharkuchi
Provat Chandra Khatonlar.
- 4) Sipajhar
Samarendra Narayan Deb.
- 5) Salmara South
Prof. Dewan Jainal Abedin.
- 6) Jaleswar
Monowar Hossain.
- 7) Goalpara West
Nazmul Haque.
- 8) Goalpara East
Prof. Chandralekha Das.

ANDHRA

- 1) Uttarapalli
R. Majumder
- 2) Vizlanagaram
Pitchi Pilli Dasu
- 3) Gajapathinagaram
S. Adhinarayam
- 4) Srungavarapukota (ST)
T. Tudu
- 5) Bheemunipatanam
Khilari Pokham Naidu

Unprecedented

(Contd. from Page 1)

Our General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee immediately urged upon the Chief Election Commissioner of India through an urgent telegram on 8th and a letter on the 9th February last for refraining from such wrong and most unjustified cancellation of already allotted election symbol in the mid-way of election campaign. Subsequently one of our Central Committee members Comrade Prithish Chanda also personally met the Chief Election Commissioner and demanded revocation of the said

cancellation order of allotted symbol. After this, though on 11th February '78 last, the Chief Election Commissioner of India retained the bicycle symbol only for four of our candidates in Goalpara East and West, Jaleswar and South Salmara constituencies, cancellation of the bicycle symbol for the other three candidates was not withdrawn. Again, surprisingly enough those four candidates were declared as independent candidates although our party has long been functioning as a registered party in all states including the state of Assam.

Steel Workers' Conference

(Contd. from Page 4)

Comrade N. C. Roy, the fraternal delegate from Durgapur Steel Workers co-ordination committee and Comrade Sunil Kumar fraternal delegate from Bokaro Steel also spoke.

Apart from twenty-nine executive members, representing different departments of Rourkela Steel Plant the following office bearers were elected:

President—Comrade Tapas Dutta; Vice-Presidents—Comrades Bilas Pattnaik, Braja Pradhan, Abhiram Routray; General Secretary—

Comrade B. Jena; Secretaries—Comrades S. K. Kabi, D. D. Pattnaik, S. Chakraborty and R. B. Singh; Treasurer—Comrade Banipada Dash.

Comrade Tapas Dutta thanked all for their active participation in the conference.

A documentary film on the "Last Journey" of our beloved departed leader, teacher and guide, the great leader of the proletariat, one of the eminent Marxist thinkers of the era Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was shown to the delegates as the concluding part of the programme.

'Left Front' Govt.'s anti-Working Class Attitude

(Contd. from Page 5)

Anyway, the workers braved all the odds of massive deployment of police in and around the plant, the threats and pressures of ministers and officers for unconditional withdrawal of their movement. They have stood their ground on their demand for withdrawal of charge-sheet and other vindictive measures.

In this battle of the workers of Santaldih plant, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) Purulia District Committee came in full-throated support and assistance. Our union in the Santaldih has worked tirelessly for a united and

sustained movement against the sinister design of breaking the militant organisations and their replacement by stooge organisation through the multi-pronged attacks of bureaucratic high-handedness, police interference smear campaign through press and obedient trade union body and even with provocative acts by hired men collected from outside but to cap them all by the political pressure and threat of the Chief Minister and his party.

At a big mass meeting attended largely by the plant workers of Santaldih organised at the gate of the thermal plant on 29th

How Peaceful is rural Bengal

(Contd. from Page 7)

rule in our country comprises along with the rural rich and the jotedar, the BDO, JLRO, OC and other government officials. Bourgeois law and order only defends and strengthens this bulwark of reaction in the countryside. The present government led by CPI(M) by its policy not only defends this vested interest but is aimed at consolidation of rural jotedars as a class against the poor and middle peasants. All talks of so-called law and order and reforms through government and bureaucracy speak volume of this truth. Whenever and wherever the oppressed rural people have tried to rise against the vested interests they have been ruthlessly suppressed, terrorised and intimidated by the administrative machinery with the direct aid and assistance of CPI(M) and its allies. This is the truth, the whole truth. So will there be any doubt as to how they maintained 'peace' and who reaped the harvest of this peace?

January, Comrade Fatick Ghosh, General Secretary of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) West Bengal, in his long address punctuated by the cheerful response and appreciation of the workers laid bare the whole game of the Government and urged upon them to stand as one man against this grave onslaught against fighting trade unions and militant democratic mass movements in the state.

The workers of the power plant are seeing through the real conspiracy of those who have on their lips the word 'conspiracy' off and on and are determined to carry on their struggle.

Editor-in-Chief—NIHAR MUKHERJEE

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